Water-storage Capacity

†*520. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of water-storage in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the capacity of water-storage in the country is declining;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering formulation of any scheme for conservation of river water; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a)As per the information received from the States so far, 3596 large dams have been constructed and 695 large dams are under construction. As a result of this, a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created. An additional live stages capacity of 75 BCM will be created on completion of dams which are under various stages of construction. Besides, about 3,76,000 tanks (minor dams) and ponds have also been constructed in the country.

(b) and (c) Silting of reservoirs is a natural phenomena and provision for consequent loss of storage is made at the planning stage itself. It has been assessed from the data of capacity survey of 144 reservoirs in the country that the weighted average loss of live storage in these reservoirs is around 0.31 per cent per year. Capacity surveys of 15 reservoirs got conducted by Central Water Commission has indicated that there is no reduction in the useful life of these reservoirs due to siltation.

(d) and (e) In order to augment the availability of water for various uses and their efficient use, schemes are planned, investigated, formulated, implemented and funded by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. The Time by which the schemes are to be completed is depedent on the priority

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

assigned to such schemes by the State Government and the resources made available for these schemes. To help the State Governments in their efforts to harness the water from natural resources and accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the programme, financial assistance in form of central loan is being extended to State Governments to help them complete the ongoing irrigation projects in a time bound manner so that the benefits could accrue at the earliest. Accordingly, the Central Loan Assistance (CLA) amounting to Rs. 8480 crore to the State Governments have been provided under AIBP upto the end of 2001-02. An outlay of Rs. 2800 crore has been provided for the year 2002-03. Additional irrigation potential of over one million hectare upto the end of March, 2002 has been created under AIBP. Assistance is also being extended to State Governments under Command Area Development (CAD) Programme for bridging the gap between potential created and utilised. A expenditure of Rs. 764.15 crore has been incurred during Ninth Five Year Plan under CAD programme and an outlay of Rs. 202 crore has been proposed for the year 2002-03. Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.